

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 1, 3, 11, 13, 14, 19, 21 and 25. These sheets, which include Figs. 1 - 25 replaces the original sheets including Figs. 1 – 25. In Fig. 1, previously omitted element 19 has been added. In Fig. 3, previously omitted elements 146 and 150 have been added. In Fig. 11, previously omitted elements 18 and 160 have been added. In Fig. 13, previously omitted element 174 has been added and elements 172 and 173 have been renumbered 170 and 172, respectively. In Fig. 14, element 172 has been renumbered 170. In Fig. 19, previously omitted elements 192, 190, and 193 have been added. In Fig. 21, previously omitted element 93 has been added. In Fig. 25, previously omitted elements 190 and 192 have been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the interview on October 5, 2005, during which the claims and several references of record were discussed.

On pages 2 and 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings due to various informalities. Applicant has corrected the drawings as shown and believes that they are now in good form.

In paragraphs 3 – 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the specification due to various informalities. Applicant has corrected the specification as shown and believes it is now in good form.

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 12, 16 – 30 and 32 - 34 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Brazzell (U.S. 6,406,386). In view of the claims as now presented and for the reasons discussed below, Applicant believes that these claims are not anticipated by Brazzell.

Brazzell discloses an automatic table tennis ball serving device is disclosed as having a generally vertically extending enclosure with a table tennis ball feeding passageway including a lower ball entrance and an upper ball dispensing outlet. Ball feeding arms are mounted to the enclosure adjacent the lower ball entrance for feeding table tennis balls upwardly in the ball feeding passageway against the force of gravity. A ball dispensing head is mounted to the enclosure adjacent the upper ball dispensing outlet for serving table tennis balls to a player at selected rates and trajectories. The ball dispensing head includes a ball size adjustment mechanism to enable table tennis balls of at least two diameters to selectively pass through the ball dispensing head when one or another diameter of the at least two different ball diameters is selected by the player.

In contrast, Applicant respectfully directs the Examiner's attention to Applicant's amended claim 1 as now presented. Note that Brazzell does not show a collector having a target and exit opening, with the collector for collecting balls thrown. Applicant is claiming a plurality of features in combination. Note also that Brazzell fails to disclose a throwback unit that throws the ball toward the player and away from the ground. Applicant is reciting the features in combination as suggested by the Examiner. As amended, Applicant's claim 1 recites a collector having a target and that the collector

receives and collects balls thrown at the target. Note that the throwback unit has been recited to be adjacent the exit opening of the collector and receives the baseballs thrown from the collector and throws the baseballs one at a time back to the baseball player.

The claim goes on to recite that the collector has a floor for urging baseballs toward the exit opening in the collector, and the throwback unit has, among other elements, a guide that is situated on the ground and adjacent to the exit opening for receiving baseballs passing through the exit opening, and that the throwback unit causes the baseballs that are thrown at the target to be thrown upward away from the ground and toward the baseball player. Note also that amended claim 1 also includes the limitations of claim 13 in combination with the other elements of claim 1, namely that the collector comprises a collapsible frame and at least one wheel rotatably mounted thereon to enable the collector to be moved. Independent claim 32 also has been amended to recite similar limitations.

None of the references of record, whether taken alone or in combination, show this combination of features as now claimed. For the reasons mentioned and in view of the claims as now presented, Applicant believes that the independent claims 1 and 32 are not anticipated by Brazzell. Dependent claims 2 – 31 and 33 – 34 contain limitations in addition to the limitations of their respective base claims and accordingly they should also be allowed. In view of the above, Applicant does not believe Brazzell anticipates any of the rejected claims as presented.

In paragraph 7 and 8 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 13 – 15 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brazzell. In view of the claims as now presented and for the reasons mentioned earlier herein, Applicant believes that these claims are also not obvious in view of Brazzell and should be allowed.

Applicant again points out the failure of Brazzell to teach of the elements of Applicant's claims including the collector, target, exit opening in the collector and the like. For at least the foregoing reasons, these claims 13 – 15 are not taught by Brazzell.

Applicant is filing concurrently under separate cover a request for a two month extension of time.

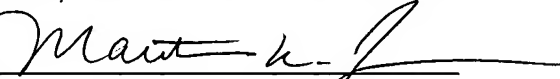
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required by this paper, or to credit any overpayment, to **Deposit Account No. 50-1287**. Applicant hereby provides a general request for any extension of time which may be required at any time during the prosecution of the application. The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any fees which have not been previously paid for by check and which are required during the prosecution of this application to **Deposit Account No. 50-1287**. (Should Deposit Account No. 50-1287 be deficient, please charge any further deficiencies to Deposit Account No. 10-0220.)

Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned via telephone with any questions or comments regarding this case. **Applicant respectfully requests an interview with the Examiner is this Amendment does not place this case in condition for allowance.**

Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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